

FLOURISHING IN GRAD SCHOOL
WEEK 6: TRUST AND OBEY (RISK)

"Saying Jesus is Lord can mean little in practice for anyone who has to hesitate in saying Jesus is smart. He is not just nice, he is brilliant. He is the smartest man who has ever lived."

— Dallas Willard

LUKE 5: 1 - 11

¹ One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Read the passage out loud together. Give everyone five or so minutes on their own to review it. Invite study members to note things that stand out and add a comment or question about it on their sheet.

Discussion Questions

What is the setting for the story in Luke 5? What is happening in verses 1 - 3?

How does the story shift in verse 4? Place yourself there, listening to Peter and Jesus's exchange in verses 4-5. What do you imagine about their tones of voice or facial expressions? What are Peter's expectations at this point? Why does Peter do what Jesus asks?

What did Peter have to lose in obeying Jesus? What was he being called to risk? Risk is often related to fear. The fear of failure is quite common among graduate students. In what ways are you afraid of failure? How might it be hindering your obedience to God? Is it possible to fail to the glory of God?

How does what actually happened compare with what he expected? What does this do to Peter? Compare verses 5 and 8.

Why does Peter conclude from the catch that he's a sinful man?

Consider the quote at the top. Does Jesus have anything to offer you in your area of expertise? Are there times when you assume he lacks the suitable understanding to help? Like the old hymn, this text calls us to "trust and obey." What is God inviting you to entrust to him? In what ways is he inviting you to obey?

In this passage, Jesus shows Peter that he knows Peter's work better than Peter does. In addition, Jesus reveals that he also can transform what Peter does (fishing) into something Peter never would have imagined (fishing for people). Can you imagine ways Christ might transform your work (teaching, research, etc.) and talents outward into ministry? If so, how?

Are there other things from the passage you want to comment on or ask about?

Spend a few minutes filling in the table below. When you are finished, discuss these final questions together and then pray for one another and for this group. How can this group help you be more obedient to your call? How might we encourage one another to take risks for the glory of God?

<i>What questions would you like us to ask you more consistently with re: to call?</i>	<i>What risks would you like to take for the glory of God?</i>